

THE REFUGE

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of fish and wildlife. Sport fishing is permitted at a level compatible with the environment, provides wholesome recreational opportunities and permits the use of a valuable renewable resource.

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 to preserve wintering habitat for waterfowl in the coastal prairie of southwestern Louisiana. Refuge habitat consists of approximately 32,970 acres of freshwater marshes and scattered uplands.

The dominant feature of the refuge is Lacassine Pool which was created by enclosing a 16,000-acre marsh with a low levee. The refuge is noted for its large concentrations of waterfowl and other species of fish and wildlife, including several game species. Fishes present include largemouth bass, crappie, sunfish and catfish.

SAFETY WARNING

Visitors are cautioned that motorboat travel on the refuge may be hazardous due to rough water, fog and swells from towboats, barges and crew boats.

FISHING REGULATIONS

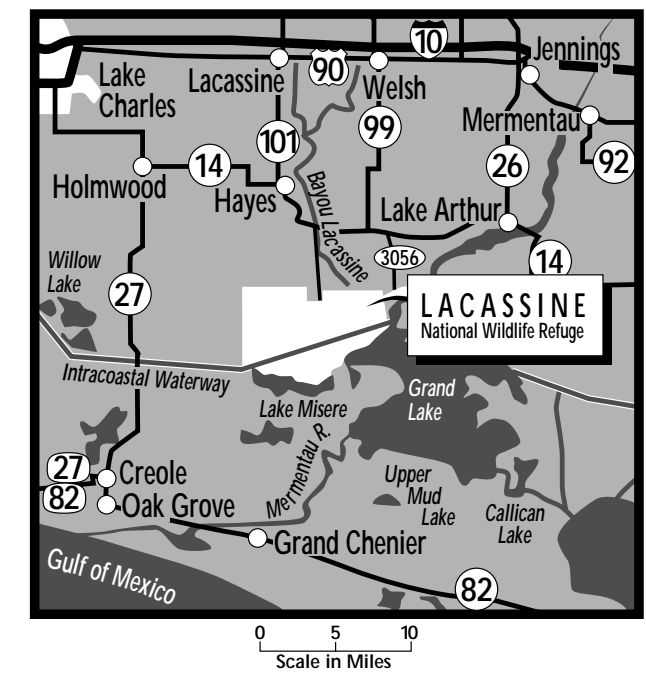
Certain State waterways that flow through the refuge are not subject to special refuge fishing regulations. These waterways are Lacassine Bayou, Streeter’s Canal between the Mermentau River and Lacassine Bayou, and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (see map on reverse). Anglers should consult the State regulations for special restrictions in these waterways. **All side canals, coves, bays, marshes and ponds off these waterways are subject to refuge fishing regulations.**

Fishing regulations are designed to protect anglers, and manage fish and wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern fishing on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Fishing and boating is in accordance with applicable State regulations and licensing. Fishing is permitted on the refuge subject to the following conditions:

**SEASON:** Boat and bank fishing is permitted from March 15 through October 15.

**HOURS:** Admittance onto the refuge is permitted from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.

**CLOSED AREAS:** Fishing is prohibited in the headquarters display pond. Other areas may be closed to fishing for management purposes as designated by no fishing or closed area signs.



**ACCESS:** Airboats may not be used on the refuge. Boats may not be left inside the refuge overnight.

**Lacassine Pool:** Only boat motors of 25 horsepower or less may be used in Lacassine Pool. Trailered boats may be launched into Lacassine Pool only at the cement ramps at the public boat launches. Boats are prohibited from October 16 to March 15.

**Unit A:** Only boats without motors are permitted in Unit A. Boats are prohibited from October 16 to March 15.

**Canals and Bayous outside Lacassine Pool:** Motorized boats may be used in canals and bayous outside Lacassine Pool unless closed by

Area Closed signs. Horsepower is not restricted for motors used in these canals and bayous.

**Marshes:** Access into refuge marshes and ponds outside Lacassine Pool is restricted to walking, poling, paddling or rowing. Motors may not be used in refuge marshes.

**GEAR:** Only fishing with rod and reel or pole and line is permitted in refuge waters. The use or possession of any other type of fishing gear including trotlines and juglines is prohibited in all waters except Lacassine Bayou and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Trammel nets, gill nets and hoop nets may be used only in Lacassine Bayou north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from December 1 to March 1 according to State regulations.

**TOURNAMENTS:** Individuals or representatives of organizations sponsoring tournaments on the refuge should contact the refuge manager for special restrictions and required special use permits.

**PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:** The sale or offer for sale of any fish taken from the refuge is prohibited. The taking of frogs and turtles is prohibited on the refuge.

CRAWFISHING REGULATIONS

Crawfishing is permitted only in the designated crawfishing area (see map on reverse) subject to the following conditions:

**SEASON:** Crawfishing is permitted from March 15 through October 15.

**HOURS:** Admittance onto the refuge is permitted from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.

**ACCESS:** Access into the refuge crawfishing area is restricted to walking and boats without motors. Swimming canals to access the crawfishing area is prohibited.

**GEAR:** Crawfish may be taken only with drop nets or hand lines. The use or possession of any other type of crawfishing gear is prohibited.

**LIMIT:** No person may take or possess more than 100 pounds of crawfish per vehicle per day.

**PROHIBITED ACTIVITY:** The sale or offer for sale of any crawfish taken from the refuge is prohibited.



Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/August 1995

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

The following activities are restricted or prohibited on Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge:

- Littering** - Litter, including discarded fishing line which is hazardous to fish and wildlife is prohibited on the refuge. Please pack out all trash and leave a clean marsh.
- Camping and overnight parking** - No camping is permitted and vehicles must be removed from the refuge at night.
- Fires** - Do not light fires.
- Collecting** - Do not gather or carry away any plants, flowers, firewood, artifacts, etc. Permits are issued for special activities.
- Harassing wildlife** - All wildlife is protected on the refuge. Only hunting and fishing activities which are authorized by refuge regulations are permitted.
- Weapon possession** - Archery equipment and firearms in vehicles on refuge roads or in boats on refuge waterways must be unloaded and either encased or dismantled. The only weapons and ammunition which may be possessed while in the field and in refuge waterways are archery equipment during the refuge archery deer season, and shotguns and non-toxic shot in the waterfowl hunting area during the refuge waterfowl hunting seasons. Possession of any weapon or ammunition on the refuge in any situation not listed above is prohibited.
- Vehicles** - All motor vehicles are restricted to designated roads and parking areas. Roads and trails may be closed at any time due to adverse conditions. **All-terrain vehicles (ATV's) are prohibited on the refuge.**
- Swimming** - Swimming is prohibited on the refuge.
- Pets** - All pets must be kept on leashes.

DISABLED ACCESS

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact the refuge manager for information on special accommodations which are available.

SIGNS PROTECT VISITORS AND RESOURCES

Signs are used to grant or restrict certain activities to provide optimum freedom for visitors while also protecting the refuge from undue human abuse. The wordings of the signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel around the refuge:



**National Wildlife Refuge -**  
This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.



**Area Closed** - Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.



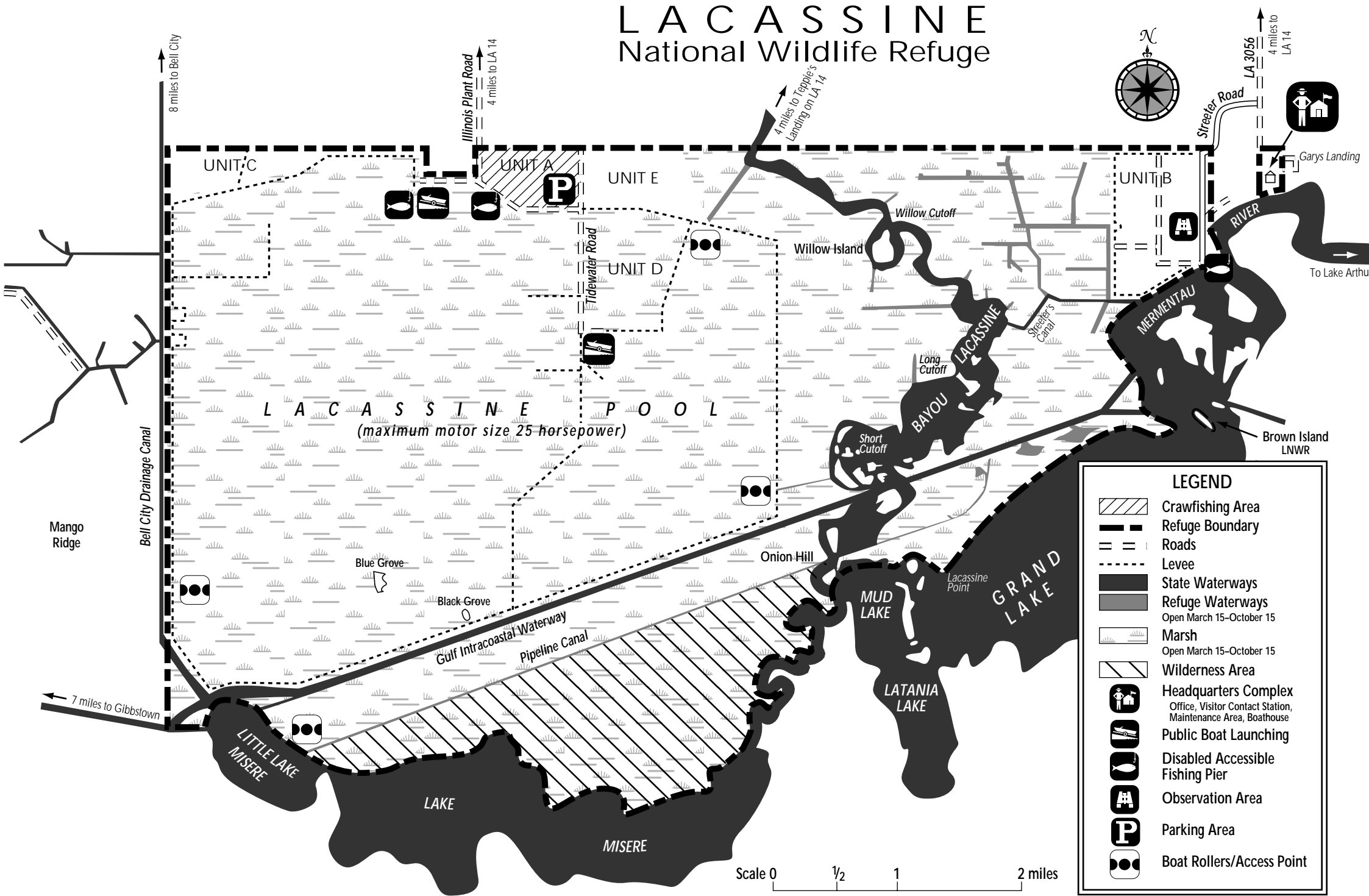
**No vehicles** - Unauthorized motor vehicles are not allowed beyond this sign. This applies to all cars, trucks, jeeps and motorcycles. Walking and non motorized bicycles are allowed. Please do not block access.



**No Fishing** - Fishing and crawfishing are prohibited beyond this sign.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Refuge Manager  
Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge  
HCR 63, Box 186  
Lake Arthur, Louisiana 70549  
Phone: (318) 774-5923

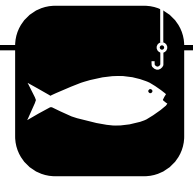


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge  
HCR 63, Box 186  
Lake Arthur, LA 70549



Official business  
Penalty For Private Use: \$300

To:



## Fishing Regulations

## Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge